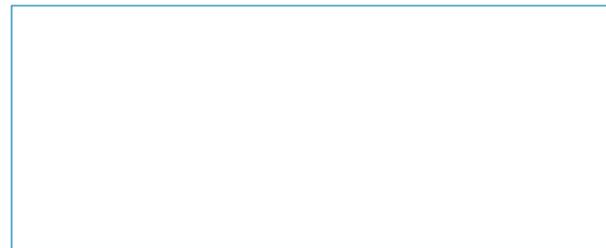


St. Francis Anglican Church  
P.O. Box 4466  
Stockton CA 95204



## Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, 24 January 2021 at 12:00 Noon

In person (Fr. Joshua's garage/driveway) and on Zoom

**Annual Meeting packets** will be available in person on the day of the meeting. Digital meeting packets will be available via email upon request. Additionally, physically mailed print packets (20+ pages) are available to those without Internet or home printing ability **but must be requested prior to January 18**. After this date, they will only be available at the meeting. Thank you for your consideration. ♦

### Will this pandemic EVER end?

When it's not  
God's timing,  
you can't  
force it.



When it's God's  
timing, you  
can't stop it.

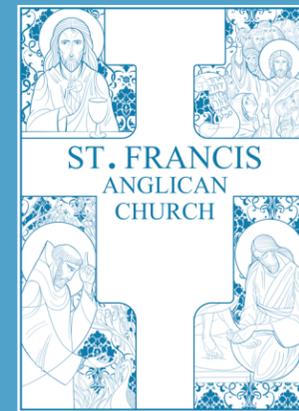
Be patient and wait on  
God.

## Winter 2021 Weekly Schedule Online Worship, Prayer, and Study

Day	When	What	Where
Sun	10:00am	Livestream Mass	Fr Joshua's Facebook page
Sun	12-1pm	Drive-Up Communion	Fr Joshua's driveway
M-F	9:00am	Daily Office Online	Zoom* or Call-in
Wed**	6:00pm	Book Study	Zoom* or Call-in

\* Contact Father Joshua for the link to our private meeting room

\*\* Meets every other Wednesday (see inside for info) beginning 20 January 2021



# THE MESSENGER

## Special Edition Winter 2021

### A Word from the Rector

*I was trying to find the words to write to express how we as a parish should move forward in these trying times. Then a parishioner forwarded me this message and image that God put on their heart, and it perfectly articulates my heart and desire for us as a parish. I commend to you her reflection. —Fr. Joshua+*

### Like a Coral Reef

I'd like to share a word picture that came to me today. See if it resonates with you.

With all that is going on in the world, I began to feel like all the political happenings and world events are like waves. This wave and that wave, coming and going, back and forth. Some big, others small. Some crashing on the beach during a high tide with huge backwash, carrying debris out to sea, tossing and turning and colliding with the next incoming wave. It is constant and exhausting for many.

You get the idea if you've ever played in the ocean and been caught up, lost your footing, were swept away—and before you can catch your breath, you're tossed around and sometimes can't even tell which way is up. Just as you reach the surface, you gasp quickly for air, only to be crushed by another wave and then another. And what about the riptides? Depending on the wave, you may feel happy or scared or angry or sad. Your feelings affect your mood and your mood affects your attitude. And what of our faith?

But today, talking with a friend who was in despair, the Lord showed me an image under the surface.

The coral reef. What if we as Christians were deeply rooted like a coral reef and refused to live on the surface and be caught up in what is happening, only to become weary and hopeless, or happy and hope-filled, depending on the current "wave" of events?

Look at the coral reef. It is "permanently attached to the ocean floor and essentially takes root like plants



do." It is a living and life-giving organism, sustaining life for its community. It is strong and beautiful. It grows and flourishes regardless of the wave action up above on the surface. It is still. It is constant and endures. It is peaceful, even if the waves are crashing and even when the storms are raging from the skies.

Sure, it may feel the current and experience the ebb and flow, but it doesn't get carried away.

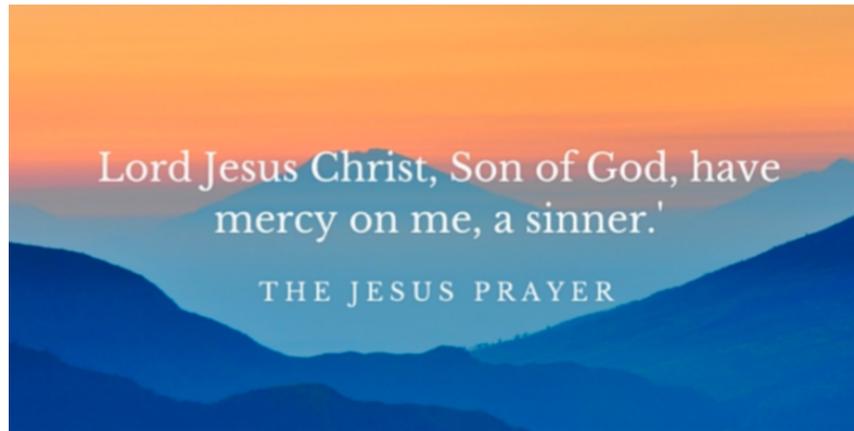
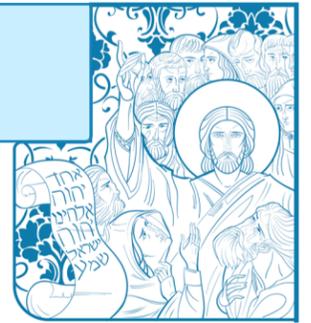
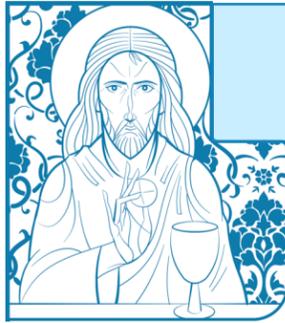
Am I like the debris on the beach getting tossed around and feeling out of control and up and down, and does my general mood and attitude change every two to four years or with every tragic event that occurs? Or am I like the coral reef? Abiding in peace, deeply rooted and firmly placed, growing and thriving despite what is happening beyond my control?

I want to be like the beautiful reef.

—M.Y., 08 January 2021 ♦

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# Cultivating Togetherness In Christ



**Daily Office Morning Prayer** continues on weekdays at 9:00 a.m. on Zoom. Sometimes we laugh, sometimes we cry, sometimes we are simply silent—the Lord always speaks to each person. Thanks be to God! ♦

**For Advent, Father Joshua preached a sermon series on the Jesus Prayer.** In the words of St. Seraphim of Sarov: “Those who have truly decided to serve the Lord God should practice the remembrance of God and uninterrupted prayer to Jesus Christ, mentally saying: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.” ♦

- January Birthdays**
- 2 Carmela P
  - 4 Ernie B
  - 6 Wilson M
  - 8 Alayah E
  - 12 Sally K
  - 17 Kathy L, Ryan V
  - 20 Helen R
  - 20 Marvin L (his 98th!)**
  - 25 John Y
  - 27 Petrina E
  - 30 Karen G



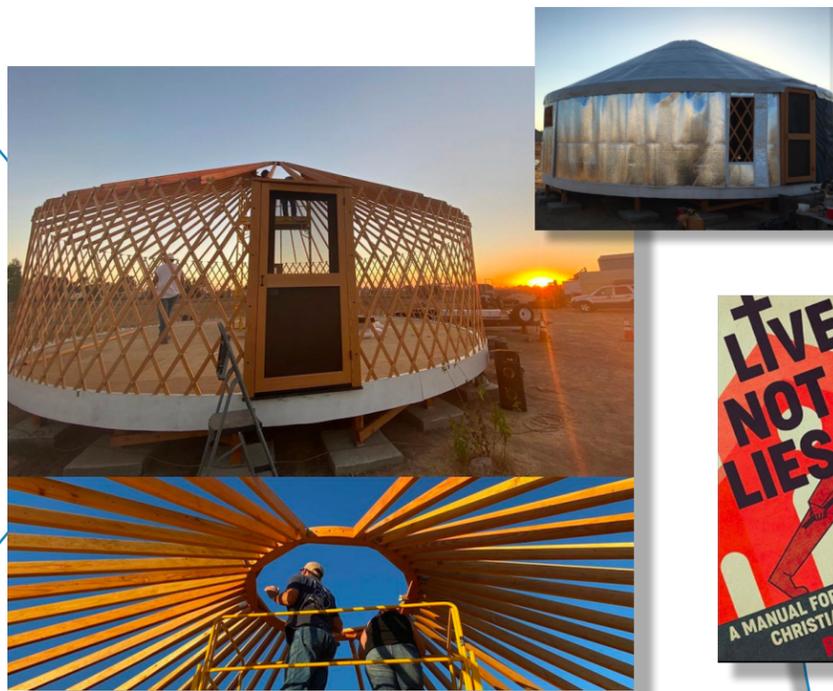
- February Birthdays**
- 12 Willy G
  - 17 Ted Y
  - 19 Marilen G
  - 22 Jim M
  - 24 Alicia D
  - 25 Macie E
  - 28 Bernard T

**Let my prayer be set before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**  
—Psalm 141:2 (NKJV)

**Not a Barn Raising But... A Yurt Raising?!**

Ralph and Sarah Clark have been busy assembling their new yurt home for the past several months. These shots are from “yurt raising” day; Father Joshua and Deacon Jeff and several others helped.

Check out Ralph’s Facebook page for more progress pictures. ♦



**Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love...**

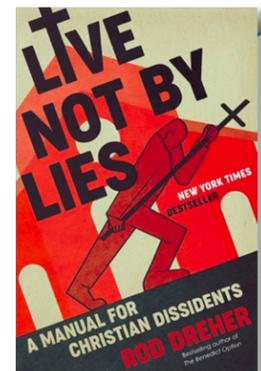
—Psalm 33:18 (ESV)

*This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I came into my house, told my dog—we laughed a lot. ♦*  
(Pandemic Humor)



**How to join the Church Zoom Room by phone:**

1. Call [redacted] and follow the verbal instructions.
2. Enter the meeting ID followed by the # key [redacted]
3. You will be asked for a participant ID. **Press #** to continue.



**New Book Study January 20 on Zoom**

“Live Not By Lies” by Rod Dreher is a timely, sobering, yet hopeful book about the coming “soft” totalitarianism. The book helps Christians to understand how to resist extremism and violence through resolving to not live by lies. It shows how Christians can survive and even thrive in uncertain times politically by working to live lives of integrity through community.

**6:00 p.m. every other Wednesday beginning January 20.**  
Questions? See Fr. Joshua or Deacon Jeff. ♦

